



# CONTINUED ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2020 STATUS UPDATE

On December 21st, Congress passed bipartisan COVID relief legislation which will continue support for out-of-work Americans who have been severely impacted by the pandemic. This legislation received presidential approval on December 27, 2020.

The U.S. Department of Labor (USDOL) is currently creating the guidance for this legislation so that states can implement these new and/or modified programs in order to deliver these critical resources. The agency will not be able to provide any details about the Continued Assistance Act until new guidance is provided to South Carolina and the agency has an opportunity to examine the new programs.

In general, here is a summary of the high-level points of the Continued Assistance Act that extends federal unemployment insurance (UI) programs into 2021:

An additional \$300 per week for all claimants receiving unemployment benefits after claim week ending December 26th through claim week ending March 13, 2021.

The number of weeks for an individual on the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program has increased.

The number of weeks for an individual on the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program has increased.

Reimbursable employers will continue to receive the federally funded 50/50 split for COVID-19 related unemployment claims until March 13, 2021.

In addition to these overall highlights, there are several pieces of the act that influence how a claim is processed and may affect an individual's specific claim, but the state must wait for guidance from USDOL and then apply that guidance to the system in accordance with South Carolina's UI code of law. Once those steps have been taken, we will work with claimants through the portal, the website, social media, etc. with any additional instructions or next steps needed.

Please see the back of this sheet to gain a better understanding of the process and timing of when these benefits will be available in South Carolina.

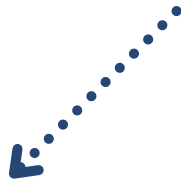
# TIMING OF UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE FROM BILL TO BENEFITS

The Continued Assistance Act of 2020 has been approved, and we want to help everyone understand the process of how a legislative bill turns into a program through which states can begin paying benefits and what you can expect in the coming weeks.



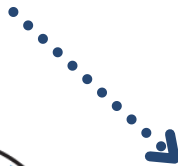
## STEP 1

The Senate and House must both pass a bill for approval. Once passed by both houses of Congress, it goes to the President of the United States.



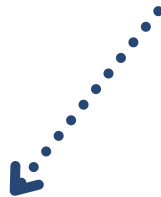
## STEP 2

The president must sign the bill in order for it to become a federal law.



## STEP 3

Congress provides the final approved document to the U.S. Department of Labor, and it must then be turned into actionable guidance for each state to accept and implement.



## STEP 4

Each state must review and apply the guidance from DOL and coordinate with their state law.



## STEP 5

Each state agency must program the new guidance into the UI system to accept the new federal guidelines.

The time from the passage of a bill to program implementation within a state can take up to 4 to 6 weeks. If the new program requires back pay of benefits to a set date, South Carolina will ensure this is processed accordingly for claimants deemed eligible.